



## 2008 General Election Questionnaire

Please fill in your information and answer the four questions below. Return via email at [oregonartpac@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonartpac@yahoo.com). Those of you who answered these questions in the primary election have an opportunity to reconsider your responses.

Responses are due no later than September 18, 2008.

Follow up interviews will take place in the late afternoon of September 22, 2008 at the Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery, 929 NW Flanders Street. We will contact you regarding a specific time.

**Candidate:** \_\_\_Mike Delman \_\_\_\_\_

**Contest:** Multnomah County Commissioner District  
3\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Submittal:** \_\_\_September 16, 2008

### Answers for Oregon ArtPAC's Website Questionnaire

**What role does arts and culture play in the life of a city and what do the arts mean to you?**

A vibrant creative culture is a vital component to every region, every city and every neighborhood. I understand the importance of the arts and the joint role government, businesses and dedicated individuals must undertake to foster a creative atmosphere in the community. This creative culture elevates a city from just a place where people exist to a place where people live. The arts, in its many forms, both express and reflect the attitudes and values of a city as well as entertain.

On a personal level, my wife, Lori, and I are big supporters of the arts. We regularly attend First Thursday in the Pearl District and various live theater and dance performances. I would continue to be a strong supporter as a Commissioner for Multnomah County.

**What steps will you take to help significantly increase private sector funding for local arts and culture organizations so that the community's arts organizations can present more high quality arts programs for all citizens?**

The report from the October 2006 meeting of the Americans for the Arts National Arts Policy Roundtable (held at the Sundance Preserve in Utah) provides a comprehensive review of how private sector funding for local arts and culture organizations has shifted dramatically in recent years.

The report from this meeting outlines a three-pronged approach to increase private sector funding for local arts and culture organizations: (1) remind everyone that a society is defined by its arts and culture, so we need to reaffirm the public value of the arts; (2) portray the arts not as in competition with other social goals, but as a necessary part of any strategy to create healthy, vibrant communities; and (3) strongly emphasize that arts education is a critical part of a child's education.

I support this approach and, as Commissioner, would work with the various arts organizations to implement it.

I have also read the Phase I report put forth by the Regional Creative Capacity Project. I think the committees have correctly identified the needs of the arts community and how local government, private businesses and leaders in the arts community can address these needs. I support the establishment of the Creative Advocacy Network and would actively work with this organization as well as other state and regional arts advocacy groups.

**How much of an increase in ongoing arts and culture funding will you support for your jurisdiction? Please provide a specific amount.**

I have reviewed the county budget for FY2009 and due to many factors, Multnomah County is expected to face a deficit estimated to be approximately \$18 million. I would like to see more funding for arts and culture programs, not just in Multnomah County, but for all governments in the region, but, given the economic crisis we are experiencing, this seems unlikely in the short term.

I have reviewed the budget request from the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) and would gladly support it as a Multnomah County Commissioner. My eventual goal is to see RACC's funding return to the level it was ten years ago. I expect that in the near future it can be restored to half that, somewhere around \$300,000 per year. As Commissioner, I will fight to maintain, at the very least, the current level of funding for arts and culture programs in Multnomah County.

**In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of Portland and the region? Please include your thoughts about integrating arts and culture into the region's educational system.**

Multnomah County should continue to support and promote the Portland/Vancouver area as a mecca for creative industries, notably architecture and design, computer software, music, and advertising. Encouraging economic development in creative industries will attract companies and workers who likely value cultural endeavors and the benefits a broad creative atmosphere has on a city.

Multnomah County could potentially partner with neighboring governments and the Portland Development Commission to provide tax incentives to businesses and particularly small businesses in creative industries similar to the tax incentives the county (and neighboring counties) offered to semiconductor manufacturers twenty years ago.

If tax breaks and incentives were offered to encourage companies to locate here, part of the requirement for receiving these benefits could be their involvement in public schools either financially such as underwriting public school art or theater programs or personally by providing mentoring programs for students.

This is one way to provide opportunities to introduce arts education into the schools within the county and to strengthen the arts educational programs currently a part of the school curriculum such as the Touchstone and the SUN Schools program. I know there are others and I would be open to working with other supporters of the arts in the community to come up with more.